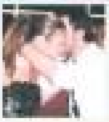
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, March 31, 2008 ★★★ 9 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 112 P18 online: www.inquirer.net



ENTERTAINMENT / F6
**Dollywood: Yilmaz seen dating former Miss Universe**

BUSINESS / B1
**BSP ends '07 with net loss of P87B**

ACROSS / A17
**Sumilao farmers reclaim land**

WORLD / A28
**Hillary vows to stay in race to the very end**



# Life is a continuing education

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Editor, Learning Section

TODAY'S INQUIRER COMES WITH THE maiden issue of Learning, a section on education matters. No, make that education that matters (See Section E).

The education beat of Philippine newspapers has always focused on the problems that have been insurmountable year after year. Reporters cannot

SPECS A11

## P249-M lotto winner from Luzon, says PCSO

By Marlon Ramos

A SINGLE BETTOR FROM LUZON LAST night won the top prize of P249 million in the 6/49 Super Lotto draw, the biggest ever jackpot in the history of the country's online lottery game, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office said.

PCSO spokesperson Larry Sedro gave

PCSO WINNER / A11



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo waves goodbye to Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and other officials at the Naia.

# Protesters hound GMA in Hong Kong

By Christine O. Avendaño

HONG KONG (via PLDT)—ARRIVING here yesterday to drum up foreign investments, President Macapagal-Arroyo was greeted by some 1,000 overseas Filipino workers calling for her to step down.

The President is scheduled to attend today the 11th Asian Investment Conference (AIC) at the Conrad International Hotel where she is expected to speak and make a pitch for the Philippines as a "valued investors destination."

Upon her arrival at the Grand Hyatt hotel, her home for the next three days, the President, accompanied by a party that includes her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, was met by a group of Filipino protesters.

Some of the demonstrators held placards that read "Bigas, hindi pagwawaldas" in apparent reference to the people's need for rice and not corruption in government.

The price of rice has gone up in the Philippines as the Arroyo administration scrambles to import 1.8 million to 2.1 million metric tons to cover a production shortfall amid a tight global supply.

The President may not have seen the protesters or heard their shouts as her convoy disembarked at the other side of the hotel entrance.

Wearing white masks scribbled with "liar," "cheat" and "murderer," around 70 Filipino workers belonging to the Hong Kong-based Bangon Pilipinas Movement, held up a large banner with "Gloria, Step down" written on it.

The President's visit here comes after months of political turmoil in Manila over corruption allegations implicating her and her husband.

The Senate has been investigating allegations that Mr. Arroyo, her husband and a former elections chief benefited from huge kickbacks in the aborted $329-million deal with China's ZTE Corp. to set up a nationwide broadband network.

Malacañang has dismissed the charges as hearsay.

Hong Kong policemen kept a watchful eye on the group, which was the only one it allowed to stage a rally near the hotel.

"We want to show her that the caveat are the OFWs, that the

PROTESTERS A11

# Cabinet to skip probes

## Ermita: Senate must first publish its rules on inquiries

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WITHOUT PUBLISHED rules, the Senate cannot compel members of the Cabinet and other executive branch officials to face its inquiries in aid of legislation and all its previous hearings may be regarded to have been "null and void," Malacañang said yesterday.

Citing Tuesday's Supreme Court decision on the petition of former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that members of the Cabinet and other executive officials could skip the Senate's inquiries.

He said the officials should be guided by the ruling that upheld Neri's right to invoke executive privilege and refuse to answer questions on his conversations with President Macapagal-Arroyo on the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

The tribunal's vote on the issue of executive privilege was 9-6, but it was 10-5 in the ruling nullifying the Senate's action to cite Neri in contempt and to order his arrest for refusing to answer questions on the President's reaction after he told Ms Arroyo of an alleged bribe offer for him to endorse the $329-million NBN-ZTE

CABINET A11



MUSLIM children wait for food rations at a village in North Cotabato. Three decades of fighting have displaced hundreds of thousands of villagers, disrupted farming, and caused food shortages in Central Mindanao.

## UN food aid feeds 1 million in South

PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO—Hiding under the shade of a makeshift stage, 12-year-old Rosalida Abdul finishes the last spoonful of her corn-soya porridge and quickly lines up for another serving.

Her traditional Muslim head scarf does not hide her emaciated frame and slightly bulging eyes, signs of early malnutrition common among children in remote villages of Mindanao.

"This is very good," Abdul said between spoonfuls of the brown, sticky mixture distributed by the United Nations' World Food Programme in the small farming village of Kalakacan. "It's not chicken or fish, but it fills me up just the same."

She is just one of more than one million people who rely daily on food from the WFP in Mindanao, which has been ravaged for more than 30 years by a Moro separatist rebellion and Ismaelian feuding.

Other students silently eat their porridge, sweat trick-

UN FOOD A11

## The fantasy of the 7.3-percent GDP growth

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

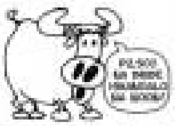
THE EUROPEAN UNION commended the Philippines last week in less than ecstatic terms for the "substantial" gross domestic product (GDP) growth it achieved in 2007.

Speaking at a public forum, EU Ambassador Alistair MacDonald acknowledged the 7.3-percent growth in 2007, saying, "We recognize that this is the best macroeconomic performance in some 30 years."

However, MacDonald immediately discounted the achievement by promptly pointing to the most glaring downsides of the growth. He said: "You have seen the recent data that came from the National Statistical Coordinating Board (NSCB) that the rate of poverty in the Philippines as a proportion of the population living on less than a dollar a day has in fact increased from 30 percent to 33 percent notwithstanding the improved economic performance overall."

MacDonald added: "Now, the government is certainly going

THE FANTASY A11




## P2,500 bribe already a 'bukol' in 1960s

By Tarra Quismundo

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN being accused of pocketing a P2,500 bribe created a scandal, enough to sow intrigue in Malacañang and strain ties between the President and Vice President.

It was enough to leave a "bukol" or ugly bulge, to borrow

P2,500 BRIBE A11

# Cities turn off lights to send save the planet message

FROM THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TO Rome's Colosseum to the Sears Tower's famous antennas in Chicago and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Rosalik icons of civilization went dark for Earth Hour, a worldwide campaign to highlight the threat of climate change.

Organizers of Earth Hour, a self-imposed 60-minute blackout from 8 p.m. on Saturday, hoped 100 million people turned off their nonessential lights and electronic appliances for the hour. Electricity plants produce greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

In the Philippines, shopping malls and

CITIES A11




THE FIGURE "60," corresponding to the number of minutes in an hour, still gleams as the man in the foreground waits for the lights to go off during the global Earth Hour campaign.

## Waterless, hotter days ahead

By Jocelyn R. Uy and TJ Burgonio

MAKE SURE YOUR ELECTRIC FANS AND air conditioners are working, for hotter days are yet to come.

The temperature could peak at a scorching 38 degrees Celsius in Metro Manila and up to 40 degrees in northern Luzon, particularly in Cagayan province, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

This is due to the persisting ridge of high pressure across Luzon, which ushers in fair weather, Pagasa weather specialist Nonoy Abuan said yesterday in a phone interview.

WATERLESS A8

Second FRONTPAGE

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P249,005,120.40

# Rice crisis artificial, says Angara

## Evidence of collusion between traders, NFA execs found in some areas

SEN. EDGARDO ANGARA YESTERDAY SAID THE present rice crisis was "artificial" and was caused by hoarders and unscrupulous traders.

### Grain passbook used

### Supplies trickle




# Remains of Pinay, son killed in Japan arrive

WHAT'S INSIDE

WOMEN LAWYERS

# Why more are topping the bar

By Leila B. Salaverria








# After EU, Palace sets sights on United Nations

By Michael Lim Ubac

"We're very happy," he said, pointing out the EU assessment was vindication of the government's position.

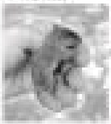
The European Union has commended the Philippines for its recent economic gains and a significant decline in the number of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, EU Ambassador Alistair MacDonald told a news forum Saturday.

"That goes to show that we are very serious about human rights."

*... days to go before EARTH DAY!*

Did you know...

...That a tiny orange-colored rodent-like mammal, not found anywhere else in the world, was recently discovered on Mt. Banahaw?



# RP, Japan ink P17-B loan pact for Clark-Subic road



# BCDA seeks damages






# Waterless, hotter days ahead

### Sunstroke

### Temporary

### Just starting

### Rains




## THE DAILY GOSPEL

# The fantasy of the 7.3-percent GDP growth

## Not enough

## HK investment forum

## Fantasy

## Growth rate overstated

## Few jobs despite growth




# Air Force to keep searching

[illegible]

















In Celebration of Our 40th Year
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40 Uratex VIPs
to enjoy any of these
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5 Living Room Showcases
5 Home Theater Showcases
5 Lenovo Laptops
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to a charitable institution!
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# PNP warns against illegal use of Mamang Pulis, Chief Razon's cards

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE has again issued a warning against the use of "Mamang Pulis" cards and the business card of Director General Avelino Razon Jr. in illegal activities.

In a statement yesterday, Razon said the PNP had received reports the cards were being used in extortion.

"I have standing orders to all PNP units to arrest any person who will use the name of the PNP to get away with criminal liability," Razon said.

On Easter Sunday, Valenzuela City police arrested Cecilio Cabos for trying to pass himself off as Razon's aide while unloading P3.2 million worth of hijacked construction materials.

When arrested, Cabos said he was a police inspector detailed as an "aide" to the PNP chief and flashed Razon's business card.

On Jan. 28, a businessman complained he was forced to shell out P50,000 to persons who identified themselves as members of the "Police Justice Group," composed of police officers, lawyers, professionals and media practitioners.

The amount was purportedly for the group's "educational program."

The group reportedly had the official seal of the PNP on its stationery and showed Razon's business card.

The PNP chief has ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to probe the organization. *—Alcuin Papa*

# Witnesses fake, says suspected Red leader

By Jerome Aning

A SUSPECTED COMMUNIST rebel leader on Friday accused the government of presenting fake witnesses against her.

Elizabeth Principe, who was pulled off the street and shoved into a van by military men last year, told the Court of Appeals that the three arresting officers presented to her by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) were not the ones who took her.

"They're not the same ones who abducted me, they look different," Principe told the court during a hearing presided over by Justice Jose Sabio Jr.

Principe said she remembered that the men who abducted her as she came out of a medical clinic in Cubao, Quezon City, on Nov. 27, 2007, were "big men, muscular and agile" and not the office worker types presented by the OSG.

The OSG also presented a female police officer as a member of the arresting team, but Principe said there was no woman among those who abducted her.

Principe said that after her abductors grabbed her, she was blindfolded and loaded into a van. She said she was tortured while under detention.

"She attended previous hearings and saw the policemen who testified about arresting her. She look at how they stammered in explaining how the arrest was made. It's because it's not really them, and they're just impersonating the real members of the arresting team, whoever they are," Rachel Pastores, one of Principe's lawyers said the reporters.

Principe is petitioning the court for a writ of habeas corpus for her husband, Leo Velasco, who disappeared last year. She was granted a writ of amparo to protect herself from harassment.

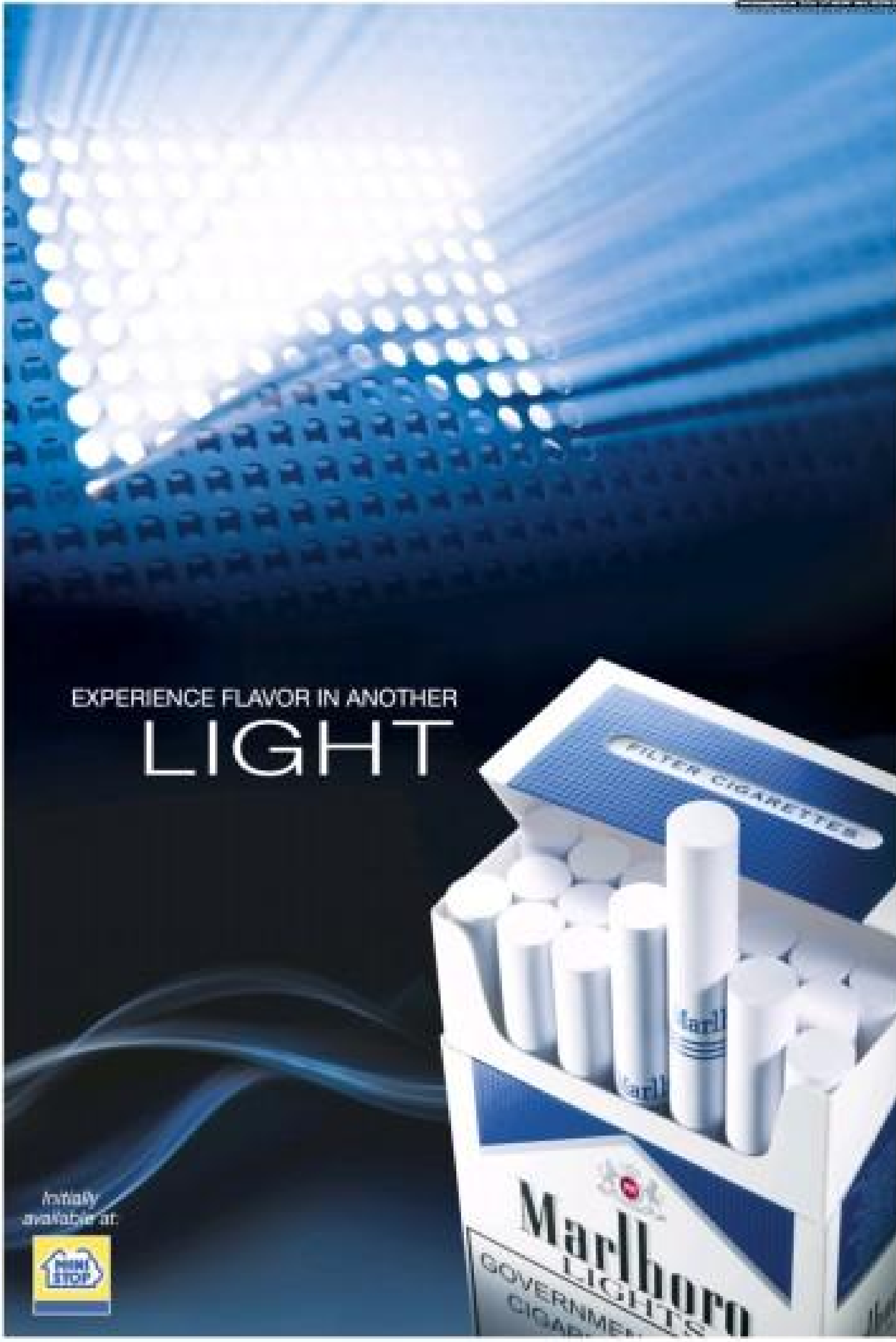
The military claims Principe and Velasco are high-ranking cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

# UN food aid feeds 1 million in Mindanao





# Life is a continuing education




Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking
is dangerous to your health

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
# OPINION

# Not enough land

EDITORIAL

IT IS ANOTHER MEASURE OF THE ARROYO ADMINistration's credibility deficit that its latest initiatives to prepare for an impending rice shortage have been met not only with skepticism but with outright suspicion. The news that tariff rates on rice may be drastically reduced, for example, caused not a few to suspect that rice traders close to Malacañang had stage-managed the looming rice crisis in the first place—precisely to bring the rates down.

This is an unfortunate perception, because a domestic shortage in the rice supply is inevitable. As we pointed out in our March 18 editorial, it is time to sound the alarm about the coming food emergency. Increased pressures on rice supply and rising food prices are an international reality. It is a reality, however, with an expiry date. Officials at the World Food Program forecast that the price of rice will continue to increase "probably at least until 2010."

Whether the emergency will worsen into a rice crisis is a distinct issue—distinct but not separate, because it too depends largely on both the administration's initiatives and its own struggles with credibility.

As it is, the perception that the administration is considering an end to the National Food Authority's monopoly on rice imports because it will benefit friendly rice traders is not helping matters. Besides, it is given credence by a suspicious public, because of the corruption and election-fraud scandals that have hounded the administration. And it is believed because the public expects the government to have prevented any rice shortage in the first place. In this view, our agriculture-dependent economy is running out of rice only because the concerned officials are either crooked or incompetent.

Or woefully short-sighted. The real problem, said Robert Zeigler, president of the International Rice Research Institute, is that "there is just not enough land."

Why this is so (extrapolating from Zeigler's insight) is a function of two factors: rapid population growth and irresponsible land use conversion.

The country's population has grown by about 30 million in the 18 years since 1990. Put another way, our population has grown by half since 1990, from 60.7 million to a projected 90.4 million this year. The pressure on the rice supply chain to meet the greatly increased demand is consequently severe. "That is why we are importing rice," said Leonardo Sebastian, executive director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

But the total hectarage dedicated to rice farming has also declined, because of many landowners using the privileges of land use conversion to convert their land into residential areas or golf courses or industrial estates.

The only good news in this dismal and continuing story is that our farmers' productivity is higher than ever. Sebastian notes that total rice production in the Philippines has in fact grown steadily, from 14.6 million metric tons in 2005 to 15.3 million MT in 2006 to 16.2 million MT in 2007 (a remarkable one-year increase of 1 million MT). This year, rice production is projected to reach 17.2 million MT.

Our rice yields are double those of Thailand, Zeigler noted, adding: "I hope that if the situation becomes tight in the Philippines, the Filipinos will not point fingers at the Filipino rice farmer."

But the reality is: Thailand is one of the world's top rice exporters, while we are a major importer. This year alone, we will import as much as 2 million MT, much of it from Vietnam, and at hundreds of dollars a ton. Why? There isn't enough land planted to rice, the country's main staple.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said his department will expand total hectarage planted to rice during the wet season to 2.54 million hectares. This is a good start. Other measures the administration has announced are necessary in the short term to ensure adequate supply of rice: direct-selling by the NFA, a no-pickup policy imposed on traders, the introduction of so-called 'tingi' packaging (for smaller sales) will help prevent illegal diversion of NFA stocks), and so on. But the long-term solution lies in land. More land, planted to rice.






# Gov't resorting to double-talk on rice shortage

AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

RICE RATIONING HAS STARTED AND PEOPLE have formed lines at the National Food Authority's central office warehouse on Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, to buy three kilos each of NFA rice [illegible]

[illegible]

# Implications

THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF CORAZON Aquino having cancer of the colon?

[illegible]

# A dangerously crippling decision

## Sounding Board



*Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.*

# Reinventing Lozada

## Kris-Crossing Mindanao



*Antonio J. Montalvan II*

# A dangerous precedent

## The Long View



*Manuel L. Quezon III*

# Senior citizens in private clubs

## Reveille



*Ramon J. Farolan*

# Arroyo in Marcos' footsteps?

[illegible]

## Keep Marcos wealth abroad while Arroyo is president

[illegible]

LETTERS

## Pacquiao should be taught lesson

[illegible]

## NSO data on employment explained

[illegible]

## Anti-poor policies behind oil, rice

[illegible]

Across the NATION






# Higaonon farmers reclaim land

SUMILAO, BUKIDNON—FOR MORE THAN 10 years, they only dreamed of setting foot in the land that was once theirs.

# Smuggled sugar seized in Cebu

CEBU CITY—A JOINT TEAM OF the Sugar Regulatory Administration-Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (SRA-PASG) confiscated 281 bags of smuggled Thai sugar in two public markets in Cebu City on Friday.

SRA Administrator Rafael Coscolluela said the seized sugar was mostly found inside original Thai sacks in the public markets of Barangay Tabunok and Carbon.

Refined sugar sells at P1,100 per 50-kilo bag and retails at P30 per kilo, he said.

The Cebu port is mostly likely the entry point of the smuggled sugar, he said.

Coscolluela said the SRA-PASG was acting on intelligence reports of smuggled sugar reportedly being sold at retail outlets in Cebu and key cities of Mindanao.

Anti-smuggling operations were also underway in the cities of Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga in Mindanao, he said.

So far, the SRA has seized 45,000 bags of smuggled sugar worth about P54 million since early this year, he said.

Sugar producers in Negros Occidental have stressed the need to seize cheap sugar illegally entering the country as it is hurting the domestic sugar industry. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*



**BIG CATCH**

The boys happily help their parents unload the 28-kilo [illegible] caught in [illegible]. The fish is sold at [illegible] per kilo at the city market.

# Widows of slain farmers ask CPP: Humanize war

LUCENA CITY—ON THE EVE OF THE NEW People's Army's 39th founding anniversary, widows of peasant leaders from Quezon and Masbate provinces who were allegedly killed by communist rebels called on the Communist Party of the Philippines to "humanize" the so-called protracted people's war.

"The widows condemned the killings of their husbands as inhuman. They said that it was not the fault of their respective husbands to fight for a better life and lasting human dignity through the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)," Juanito Fernandez of the Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment Foundation (Peace) said in a statement sent to the Inquirer Saturday.

Fernandez said the victims' families had called on the CPP-NPA to spare farmers from its attacks and also respect the freedom of choice of peasant organizations.

The victims' families filed cases of murder for the killing of their husbands and human rights violations at the Joint Monitoring Committee on March 28.

The widows said the filing should prompt the National Democratic Front to conduct a thorough investigation on the killings of peasant leaders in Quezon and Masbate.

Fernandez quoted widows Rosemarie Empas and Merlie Yale, wives of Deofrio Empas and Mark Anthony Yale, respectively, who said the choices made by their husbands were part of their basic human rights that should have been respected and should not have merited their abduction, torture and killings by the NPA rebels.

"Our communities in Bondoc Peninsula and Masbate have been impoverished by oppressive and exploitative landlords rule, and the NPAs have not done anything to change our lives for the better. But why did they have to kill our husbands after deciding to choose to engage with the government and use the law to assert our rights? Are we not free to make these choices?" the widows said in the statement.

They said that if the rebels could not defend them from abuse and oppression by landlords, the least they expected from them was to respect their rights.

Yale, a recently-elected barangay captain and farmer-leader of the Samahang Magsasaka ng Hacienda Reyes in Masbate, was killed by armed men and women in Barangay Sawang, Baleno on Dec. 22, 2007.

On Feb. 19, Empas, a village councilor of San Vicente, was forcibly taken by armed men believed to be NPA rebels while he and his companions were inside a videoke bar in San Narciso town in the Bondoc Peninsula.

Three weeks later, police and soldiers found Empas' body in a makeshift grave in a forested area of the village. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*






# Anti-US fluvial parade welcomes US warship

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—An anti-US fluvial parade met the arrival of USS Vandegrift warship on the port of Macabalan here on March 27.

Protesters riding on motorized bancas tried to get near the warship but authorities from the Coast Guard and Navy stopped them a kilometer away.

In a statement, the US Out Now! Coalition raised suspicion over the arrival of the US warship in Mindanao.

"The arrival of the USS Vandegrift warship in Cagayan de Oro... is questionable as it is unwelcomed. How the USS Vandegrift is freely entering ports in Mindanao is suspect. Whether this is part of the terms covered in the terms of reference in Balikatan 08, the Philippine government must answer," said lawyer Beverly Musni, convenor of the US Out Now! Coalition.

The local government of Cagayan de Oro said the arrival of the US warship is part of a goodwill port visit.

Mayor Constantino Jaraula said the arrival of the US warship will boost the city's reputation as a safe place in Mindanao where foreign guests can visit for tourism or investment purposes.

The City Information Office also announced that officers of the USS Vandegrift will visit an orphanage and interact with the orphans through reading books, playing games, donating toys, school and cooking supplies and refurbishment of basketball hoops.

But Musni questioned the real intention of the warship's port call.

"The USS Vandegrift, by any means, is not on a goodwill mission. It is a guided-missile frigate that is the flagship of the commander of the Seventh Fleet. It had played crucial logistics support for the US military invasion in the Persian Gulf. It is the first US military ship that docked in Vietnam 30 years since the defeat of American forces in the Vietnam War. Its critical role in the political and military agenda of the US in the Philippines cannot therefore be underestimated," she said.

Members of the US Out Now! Coalition also saw the USS Vandegrift supposed goodwill visit as an insult. Placards and streamers were hung around the port by the activists demanding for the immediate departure of the warship.

"This so-called goodwill visit comes some time after the recent rape of a Filipina OFW by a US serviceman in Okinawa, Japan last Feb. 10 and the Balikatan exercises commenced in Mindanao. American forces have not shown goodwill in many parts of the globe, surely we cannot expect the same in Mindanao. For that, we cannot simply allow US war vessels and troops to come in freely and roam our cities, nor do we simply surrender our sovereignty," Musni added. *Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Parents grumble over Erap as graduation speaker







# Palawan moves to securitize Malampaya funds



RAIN IN DAVAO

# Couple tagged top communists in E. Visayas nabbed in Cavite

## Multiple murder

## Forcible abduction

## Warrants

## NEWSBRIEFS

■ DAVAO CITY

### 2 soldiers slain in road mishap

### 13 persons missing in boat sinking

■ TAGUM CITY

### Suspected rebels fire at cop station

■ BACOLOD CITY

### Lightning kills farm worker

# Cabinet to skip probes

### Constitutionally infirm

### Null and void

### Senate a continuing body

### Acting like bandits

### Loss to publicity seekers

# Protesters hound GMA in Hong Kong

### People power

### Call center agents

### Spiraling oil, rice prices




# P249-M lotto winner from Luzon, says PCSO

### Spend it wisely

### Record sales

### 1,000 millionaires

### Invoking God

# Cities turn off lights to send save the planet message

### Americans in it, too

### Stars over Copenhagen

### Candlelit parties

### Google, too

### Shoppers and artists

# P2,500 bribe already a 'bukol' in 1960s

# Wakeboard champ has seen it all



# PBL: Jaime earns his minutes, citation




## *Dodgers-Red Sox match attracts record crowd*






# Barako nip Kings...



Late SPORTS

# Barako nip Kings; Express score

[illegible]

More Sports stories on A29 to A32



# A plus METRO

**DID YOU KNOW**




# Erap asks MMDA for more aid for movie workers

## Former leader laments sad state of movie industry



**THE NEED FOR SPEED**




**Citizen's call**



**WATER DOWN THE DRAIN**

### Fix sidewalks, please

### Undisciplined jeepney drivers

### Traffic bedlam

### Double parking on Makati street

# MMDA nixes extension of amnesty offer deadline

By DJ Yap

[illegible]

# Top cop wants CCTVs in banks

By DJ Yap

[illegible]




# Pasay City offers free sports clinic

By Julie M. Aurelio

[illegible]

## MetroBriefs

### 1 killed, 1 hurt in road mishap

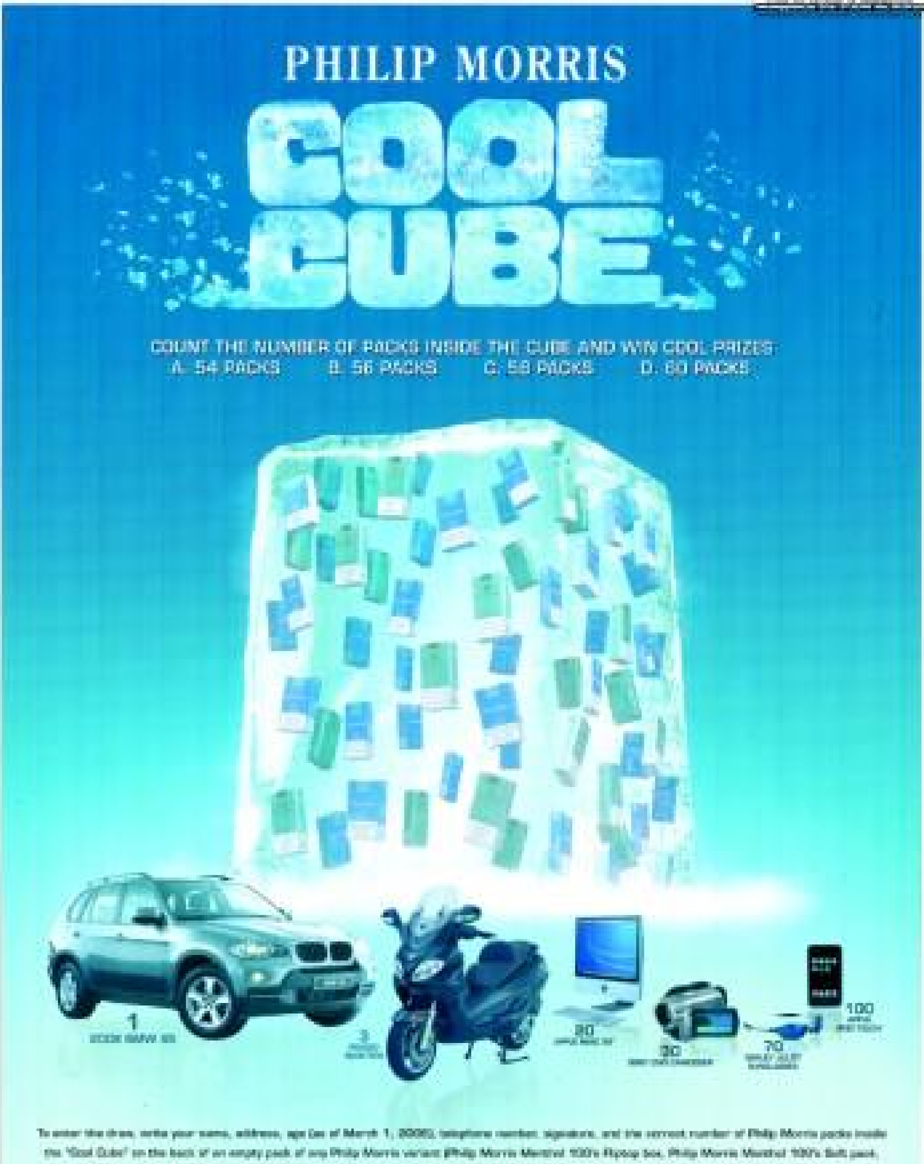
[illegible]

### Construction of gas station hit

[illegible]

### 12-hour water cutoff in Manila

[illegible]




Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

# The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Gomez

# Clinton vows to finish race

STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA—US DEMOcratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton vowed, in an interview published Sunday, to stay in the race to the very end, despite warnings by prominent party officials that a protracted primary fight could be damaging to Democrats.

"I know there are some people who want to shut this down and I think they are wrong," Clinton told The Washington Post. "I have no intention of stopping until we finish what we started and until we see what happens in the next 10 contests and until we resolve Florida and Michigan."

The two states held their Democratic primaries in January but because they were held in violation of national party rules, their results have been invalidated.

Clinton, who won in both of those states, now wants to find a way to include Florida and Michigan in the overall tally for the Democratic nominating convention.

Democratic National Committee chair Howard Dean warned this week that the party needed to unify soon to avoid handing November's presidential election to the Republicans, and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont called openly for Clinton to quit.

But on Saturday, Clinton's rival, Barack Obama, rejected calls for her to get out of the nomination race.

He told reporters that "Senator Clinton can run as long as she wants."

"She should be able to compete, and her supporters should be able to support her for as long as they are willing to abide," said the Illinois senator, who has a slim lead over Clinton.

Neither Clinton nor Obama can win the 2,025 delegates necessary to wrap up the party's nomination, leaving the decision up to the superdelegates, party grandees who can vote for who they want at the national convention in August.

Both camps said Saturday they did not believe the ongoing race was damaging.

"I think that the notion that the party's been divided by this contest is somewhat overstated... I think the party's going to come together," Obama said, adding that a candidate must be chosen after the nominating process ends in June.

Former President Bill Clinton told reporters while campaigning in Pennsylvania that his wife could still win the race to fight presumptive Republican nominee John McCain in November, despite Obama leading in the number of pledged delegates, nominating contest victories and the national popular vote.

"It's neck-and-neck. Only 130 delegates separate Hillary from Senator Obama... and that's not counting Florida and Michigan," he wrote in a fund-raising e-mail to supporters.

"With the race this close, it sure doesn't make sense to me that she'd leave now—does it make sense to you?" he said.

Clinton needs a big win in Pennsylvania to boost her argument that only she can win big states that Democrats need to recapture the White House. AFP



CLINTON AP

# Dutch traders fear boycott over anti-Islam film

THE HAGUE—DUTCH BUSINESSES Saturday threatened to sue far-right lawmaker Geert Wilders if his anti-Islam film led to a commercial boycott, as EU foreign ministers and more Muslim countries condemned it.

"I don't know if Wilders is rich, or well insured, but in the case of a boycott, we would look to see if we could make him bear responsibility," Bernard Wientjes, chair of the Dutch employers' organization VNO-NCW, told the newspaper Het Financieele Dagblad.

"A boycott would hurt Dutch exports. Businesses such as Shell, Philips and Unilever are easily identifiable as Dutch companies," he was quoted as saying.

Malaysia's former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad suggested a boycott on Saturday, echoing a similar call by media in Jordan.

"If we boycott Dutch products, they will have to close down their businesses," Mohamad told reporters. "If the world's 1.3 billion Muslims unite and say they won't buy then it (the boycott) will be effective."

Muslim nations including Malaysia and Singapore have condemned the 17-minute film "Fitna," released on the Internet on Thursday, which links images of extremist attacks to verses from the Koran.

Although there were no mass disturbances in the Netherlands, in Utrecht cars were set ablaze overnight, with a website slogan calling for the death of Wilders.

Late Friday the British website that pulled "Fitna" from its site www.liveleak.com, citing threats made to staff. It can still be seen on YouTube and other sites. AFP

## WorldBriefs

### Ex-husband says Betancourt may be dead

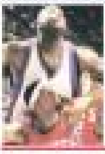
PARIS—The former husband of French-Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt said Saturday he fears she may have already died in the hands of the FARC rebel guerrilla group. "I am afraid that Ingrid Betancourt is either dying or already dead," Fabrice Delloye said. "What worries me most is the latest statement by the Colombian government, and I wonder if they have information that we do not and are in the process of shielding themselves." However, the head of a global support group, Herve Marro, said that he was optimistic and convinced she was still alive. Colombia's independent public ombudsman, Volmar Perez, said Thursday that reports indicated that "the state of her health is very delicate, and her physical and health conditions have been deteriorating." He said that, according to residents in an area where Betancourt was taken by her captors to be treated, the high-profile hostage was suffering from hepatitis B and leishmaniasis, a skin disease caused by insect bites. AFP

### Sadr orders militia not to surrender arms

NAJAF, Iraq—Radical Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Saturday defied Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's call on his forces to surrender their arms as the premier vowed to press on with his assault against them. "Sadr has told us not to surrender our arms except to a state that can throw out the (US) occupation," Haidar al-Jaburi of the Sadr movement's political bureau said in the holy city of Najaf, home to the cleric's main office. On Wednesday, Maliki gave a 72-hour deadline to Shiite fighters, mostly Mahdi Army militants loyal to the anti-American cleric, to disarm in the southern city of Basra after launching an offensive against them a day earlier. The deadline expired on Friday after which Maliki gave the residents of Basra an April 8 deadline to surrender their heavy and medium weapons in return for money in a bid to cut the supply of arms to militants. The crackdown on areas controlled by Sadr's militia has severely strained a freeze of Mahdi Army activities the cleric ordered in August, which was one of the main reasons for the overall fall in violence in Iraq since June. On Saturday, Maliki vowed to press ahead against the gunmen, saying they were "worse than al-Qaida." AFP

### Tainted mozzarella: 28 farms test positive for dioxin

ROME—Twenty-eight Italian buffalo farms have tested positive for raised dioxin levels, the country's health minister said Friday, as the country began recalling tainted mozzarella from the market. Nevertheless, Singapore announced it was joining Japan and South Korea in banning Italian mozzarella sales as a precautionary measure. The southeast Asian city state's Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority said the ban was a precautionary measure until laboratory tests could "determine if they have been contaminated with dioxin". France's decision to withdraw the famous cheese from sale led the European Union to conclude that no action to protect consumers was necessary, and France quickly reversed a decision to halt imports of the cheese from the shelves. The scare began last week when samples of mozzarella from the Naples region, which is made from buffalo milk, were found to have raised dioxin levels. AFP



WHAT'S INSIDE

Hamilton sparks Pistons victory /A31

# SPORTS



SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

# Ateneo, SSC tossers debut with aplomb



## Security tight as Beijing receives Olympic torch



## Antonio finishes high up Down Under



# Huerva, Tanpinco top Samsung Tour opener



TANPINCO: Winner by 15 shots



# Pro billiards league in the works

# Cebu, Batangas nines up

## SPORTSWATCH

### Foreign-flavored forum

### Makati 5-cocker today

### SJC hosts 4-cock derby

## Uninterrupted tragedy in amateur boxing

BARE EYE



BADMINTON BASICS:



## Fiery Mighty Menthols post 6th straight victory

# Hamilton sparks Pistons victory

## Defeated Cavs still clinch playoff slot—with Suns' help



NBA STANDINGS

## North Carolina, UCLA book Final 4 slots

## Ochoa grabs Safeway lead at Superstition course



## *Federer, Ivanovic oust Sony tennis foes*

## China hopes to lick smoking habit; Aussie eyes fastest Olympic swim





# SPORTS

# Korean, Thai rule Lancer tennis







# Star Paper 10-Ball set April 5-13





# RP Open amateur race tight



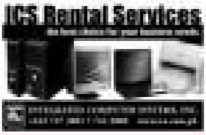
# Mendoza keeps top NGAP post

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- Local coal mining firm to raise P480M via IPO /B4
- WB willing to extend guarantees to firms /B8

BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Montierro




# BSP ends '07 with net loss of P87B

## High cost of curbing peso appreciation

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS ENDED 2007 with a net loss of P87 billion, a reversal of the P4.79-billion net profit in 2006, as foreign exchange losses widened while the peso strengthened against the dollar to become Asia's best performing currency.

Based on unaudited financial results recently reported to the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board, the financial losses charge was on account of about P131 billion in foreign exchange losses, top BSP sources said. The reported losses widened further from the P62.3-billion net loss recorded from January to November.

While the central bank's foreign exchange reserves rose to a record-high $33.7 billion in 2007 from $22.97 billion the year before, it was forced to buy more dollars from the open market even when the greenback was on a freefall. Without such intervention, the peso would have appreciated even faster.

The local currency surged 18.8 percent against the dollar in 2007 on the back of strong remittances from overseas Filipino workers and foreign investment inflows.

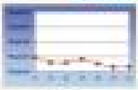
Asked whether the local central bank would adopt new measures to bounce its bottom line this year, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "Let me reiterate that profit is not the BSP's overriding consideration for operations, although it is important."

"Our primary mandate is the attainment of price stability. As I have also said in the past, achieving this mandate comes at a cost. Nonetheless, we are mindful of these considerations and endeavor to use the most cost-effective tools available to achieve the objective," Tetangco said. He said central banks do not make money during the good times when the currency is strengthening.

"It's because they will be long (on a buying position) on foreign exchange because they will be holding the reserves. Also, if the banking system is stable and sound, the banks don't have to borrow from the central bank. So during good times when everyone else is making money, central banks usually don't make money," the BSP chief explained.

BSP B2

### Currencies



PESO-DOLLAR RATE P41.034 = $1

### Stock Market

**Choppy trading seen**

THE LOCAL BOURSE WILL likely remain volatile this week—with investors ... continue to bound the global financial system, according to stock market analysts.



PSE COMPOSITE INDEX MARCH

# Rice price on the rise

A LITTLE LESS THAN 13 YEARS AGO, in August 1995, rice prices in the Philippines went through the roof, almost doubling practically overnight. A combination of bad weather (El Niño-induced drought), bad timing on import decisions by the National Food Authority (NFA), and profiteering behavior by unscrupulous rice cartels brought back the rice queues that had not been seen since the 1970s.

I remember the time only too well. As Neda director general then, I and my Cabinet colleague Agriculture Secretary Roberto "Bobby" Sebastian had a lot of explaining to do—I for the sudden spike in the overall inflation rate, Bobby Sebastian for the rice shortage. Both of us were receiving those famous 5:00 a.m. phone calls from then President Fidel V. Ramos, in a period that was to be among the most memorable in my eight years of government service.

### This market

Fast forward to March 2008, and the same scenario appears to be playing out once more, this time with a major difference. The problem back in 1995 was purely internal to us; nowadays the rice supply tightness extends well beyond our shores. And while we could have avoided the rice queues back then with a timely decision by NFA to import the commodity, those days

**NO FREE LUNCH**



*Cielito F. Habito*

seem finding a source to import the vital commodity from has now become very hard. And our import requirement now, running well over 2 million metric tons, is almost three times what we needed to import back then. (We had in fact even managed to make a small export shipment, about 35,000 tons, just three years before that 1995 rice crisis.)

The problem with the world rice market then and now is that it is a relatively thin market, with only about 7 percent of total world production being traded internationally. And now, India and Vietnam—both key suppliers to world rice trade—have both cut back exports due to rapidly growing internal demands for the commodity. China, also facing surging demands due to rapidly rising incomes coupled with large-scale conversion of farmlands into industrial and residential zones, has switched from being a net rice exporter to being a net importer.

### Price hikes

The supply tightness is now showing up in rising world prices, with spot prices already hitting more than $700 a ton, more than three times the level just five years ago, and 47 percent above what we reportedly paid just last January. In Thailand, the world's top rice exporter, industry officials foresee prices rising to $1,000 a ton, and quotes in the rice futures market appear to bear this out. Among other things, surging oil prices are making fertilizer production more expensive and transportation more costly. Meanwhile, world supplies are further threatened with the possible return of a deadly crop disease that reduced Vietnam's rice yield last year.

It was thus fortunate that we even managed to secure a supply contract with Vietnam for a million metric tons last week, the language of which some think may not even be a solid commitment to provide the commodity if and when crunch time comes.

### Largest importer

We now have the dubious distinction of being the largest rice importer in the world—the result of rice productivity lagging behind our rapidly growing population. Irrigation coverage, the single most important determinant of our rice productivity had reportedly even declined (to less than a third of our total irrigable area), due to deterioration and poor maintenance of existing facilities through the years. And this happened notwithstanding a law passed in the 1990s (about several decades before the study) that would have us attain 100-percent irrigation coverage in 10 years—proof that a country cannot simply legislate its way out of a problem.

Our rice productivity had in fact been declining through the years. Apart from declining irrigation, many years of unsustainable inorganic and chemical-based monoculture rice farming had apparently been degrading the soil in our traditional rice lands. Declining irrigation itself was also the result of deteriorating watersheds owing to rapid forest degradation. On top of this has been the continuous conversion of prime farm lands into non-farm uses.

### Age-old failures

But it is not only science that will solve our rice problem. Declining productivity has as much been the result of an institutional environment that gave little incentive and capability for farmers to invest in productivity improvements. With rice cartels lording it over rice trading, rice farmers continue to receive farm gate prices that are hardly remunerative. And with farm credit continuing to be dominated by usurious informal lenders and traders themselves, farmers have little capability to spend for productivity enhancements even if they were available.

The short-term solution to the current difficulty is inevitably more imports, to the extent that we can find the rice to import. Over the longer term, there is no escaping facing up to and coming up with new approaches to our age-old failures in the basic irrigation, farm credit, and addressing the uncompetitive elements in the rice trading system. Meanwhile, we're in for even higher rice prices, and that's a reality we can't seem to avoid, at least for the near future.

Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu.



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Sobhi Sharbagi and Partners
Manufacturers of Cigarette Paper
We Produce Quality

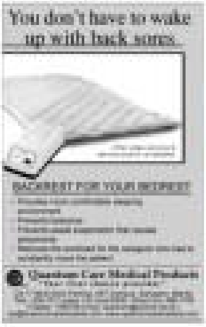
## Choppy trading seen
























# Local coal mining firm to raise ₱480M via IPO

By [illegible]

LOCALLY OWNED COAL MINING and trading firm [illegible] Mining and Energy Development Corp. (SMEDC) has disclosed plans to sell its shares to investors through a small initial public offering, according to the documents filed with regulators.

In application for registration and listing filed simultaneously with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), the company said it plans to raise P480 million in fresh capital from the IPO.

The offering consists of 480 million new common shares at a par value of one peso each to domestic investors.

The company said that the offer was being made "in light of strong investor appetite for coal stocks despite challenging market conditions."

According to the firm, the offer shares will be issued out of the company's authorized and unissued capital stock and will be equivalent to 33.3 percent of SMEDC's outstanding capital after the IPO.

At present, 79.7 percent of the firm is owned by [illegible] Consolidated Holdings Corp.

SMEDC has hired Asian Alliance Investment Corp. as the lead underwriter for the IPO.

The company's shareholder [illegible] Trading Corp. has also given Asian Alliance the option to purchase or place up to 48 million SMEDC shares, representing 10 percent of the offer, for the purpose of covering over-allotments.

Aside from allocating 20 percent of the IPO for sale by PSE trading participants, another 48 million offer shares, or 10 percent of the offer, will be made available to local small investors.

Net offer proceeds will be used by the coal and energy firm to partially finance its capital expenditures related to additional exploration of its coal operating contract areas, improvement and expansion of coal operations and processing facilities, pay existing bank obligations and finance working capital requirements.

SMEDC was incorporated on August 2007 to engage in mining and energy operations, including exploration, extraction, processing and marketing of mineral and coal reserves and the conversion of these reserves into power either directly or through subsidiaries or affiliated companies.

Last September, SMEDC raised its authorized capital stock to P1.5 billion from P30 million to allow for the acquisition of 100 percent of sister company MC Mining and Energy Corp. (MCMEC) through a share swap agreement—making MCMEC a wholly owned subsidiary of SMEDC.

MCMEC holds or maintains rights over four coal operating contracts (COCs) with the Department of Energy. Three of these COCs cover 20,790 hectares of fully explored coal-bearing area in [illegible] and Lingig, Surigao del Sur.






## Philippine Stock Exchange

[illegible]

## Maybank

[illegible]



SUBICDOCK expanding

# Gov't subsidy to state firms down to ₱751M in January

## Bulk went to NHA for low-cost housing projects

# Miner eyes on-site nickel processing



# Pre-needs woes persist in '08



# LandBank commits ₱12-B facility for agri projects

# BSP ends '07 with net loss ...

# INFOTECH



# HP banks on youth with 'artist edition' notebook



THE WINNING design is incorporated into the notebook skin.

# High-end wireless audio systems for the home theater



PT7031

# Samsung's multimedia camera leads digital imaging parade





SAMSUNG'S L100

# BUSINESS



## WB willing to extend guarantees to firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK IS WILLING TO GUARANTEE the loans of private companies looking to invest in infrastructure projects pushed by the Philippine government.

[illegible]

## Coco product exports surged 56% in Feb.

By Amy R. Remo

COCONUT PRODUCT EXPORTS SURGED [illegible]

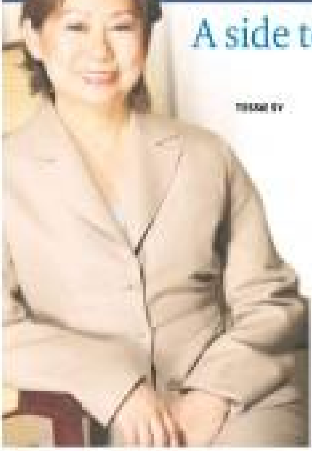
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BusinessMonday



# Tête-a-tête with Tessie Sy

## A side to the heiress people would like to see



TESSIE SY

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

# People Events & Products

## Listerine stages strategic partnership with PDA




ADVERTISING AGENCIES EXCHANGE WIT AND WISDOM WITH GUEST SPEAKER, SENATOR CHIZ ESCUDERO



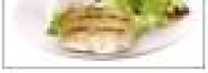
HARRY CONNICK JR 'MEET AND GREET'

## Hallucinations, delusions common in schizophrenia



## Product Files

### Kenny Rogers' healthy treats



MALAYAN BANK HOLDS FREE INVESTMENT SEMINAR AT PSE



## Unique bar review program launched

### Sydenham's beverages are health motivators

# Subic-Clark Alliance: Breakthrough in infrastructure development

MAPping THE FUTURE



### Logistical hub

### Break from tradition

### Separate enclaves

# Integrity in corporate governance



## A BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP THAT UPS THE ANTE





# DELL VOSTRO PUTS SMBs IN FIRST PLACE

## Newly launched Vostro offers dedicated products, services and support for millions of SMB owners

### Global Needs, Global Solutions

### End to end focus on Small Medium Businesses

BUSINESS Monday



# Integrity in corporate governance




# PLDT, O&Os Make Great Partners

## 2008 e-Services Global Sourcing Conference & Exhibition













HAVE A GOOD DAY!



LIFESTYLE




# MiG Ayesa rocks in 'We Will Rock You'

The Pinoy-Australian charmer injects new spirit into the hit musical that depicts a future without rock-and-roll


MiG AYESA

THE SINGAPORE PRODUCTION of the West End musical "We Will Rock You" opened at the Esplanade Theatre here last Friday, and the verdict is loudly unanimous: Long live Queen!

Queen, of course, is one of the world's greatest rock bands. Since the death of its front man, composer and chief vocalist Freddie Mercury, its legend has grown, and it is to the credit of the remnants of the band that they have remained a close-knit group to protect the Queen legacy and ensure its perpetuation.

In the case of the musical, the direct involvement of the Queen remnants, Brian May and Roger Taylor, who tweaked the original lyrics to suit the book and story by Ben Elton, ensures that the transformation hews closely to the Queen original.

Many Queen aficionados would be surprised, in fact, that May's inimitably harsh and blistering lead-guitar pyrotechnics has been retained, so much so that they would think May has taken his place among the musical's instrumentalists, many of whom are only in their 20s and were probably not yet born in the heyday of the group.

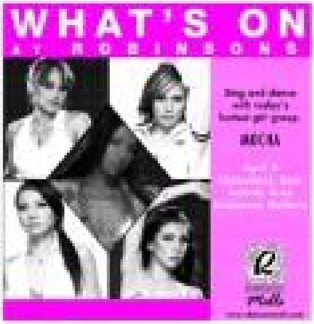
It helps that the production features somebody who's very familiar to Asian audiences: Filipino-Australian MiG Ayesa, who became a household name in the region for landing on the Top 3 in the global search to replace Michael Hutchence, the late front man of the top Australian rock band INXS, in the hit 2005 reality TV show "Rock Star: INXS."

Many Asians who came to the opening night admitted they were lured to watch the show by Ayesa and the prospect of reliving the glory of Queen—through Ayesa's lung power and pelvic passion, of course. To them, Queen is Queen and Ayesa is King.





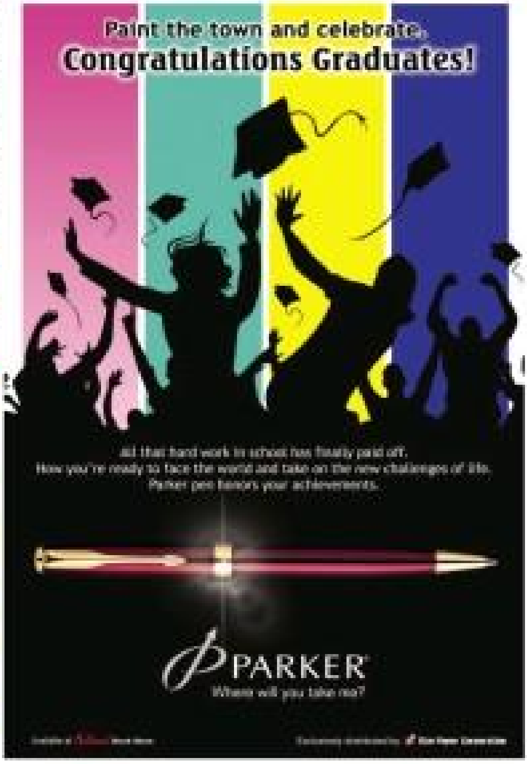




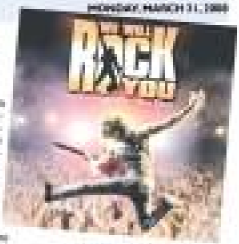






# Mig Ayesa rocks in 'We Will Rock You'




From page C1

Ayesa had come close to winning the 2005 contest, but his theater background apparently got in the way. Before joining the contest, he had already built a sizeable theater résumé, having played Angel in the West End production of "Rent" and Danny Zuko in the Australian production of "Grease."

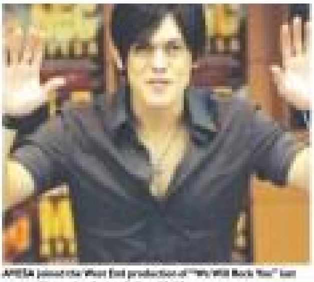
Apparently the "Rock Star" judges and voters had thought in the end that, in joining the contest, Ayesa seemed in-between jobs and was merely auditioning for another stage role.

In any case, a theater background wasn't all too establishment, a tad too conservative for a rock group like INXS that, in its peak in the 1980s, had been called the latest Under reincarnation of the Rolling Stones.

True enough, in true theater fashion, Ayesa was able to parlay his exposure in "Rock Star" to a rock-star status in British musical theater. In the aftermath of his loss, West End drafted him to play the lead role in "We Will Rock You."

The play had already opened successfully in 2003, but Ayesa's entry last year appears to have revived the production and infused it with a new energy. Now the production is touring worldwide.

Craggily handsome in a rock-star sort of way, Ayesa has stage presence and grace. Although lanky and perhaps even short, he holds himself admirably against a mainly hefty Caucasian cast and prevails chiefly through his confident characterization and passionate singing. He never strikes a false note.



AYESA joined the West End production of "We Will Rock You" last year, and is touring the musical worldwide.

## Royal regurgitation

But how could anyone fail with Queen?

If the musical succeeds, the verdict is not unexpected. "We Will Rock You" is hardly a subtle attempt to regurgitate and recycle the hit records of the seminal British rock band.

The title of the musical itself comes from one of the band's many several smash records, the anthem of the generation of the 1970s barely out of Woodstock but also firmly into the new romantic and totally materialistic mode of the 1980s that saw the onset of the second British musical invasion.

To date, Queen forms a pillar in the trinity of rock gods, with The Beatles and, perhaps, the Bee Gees.

The Beatles music, of course, has enjoyed periodic reinventions in film and theater scenes, the decades, the latest being the movie "Across the Universe."

In contrast, the Bee Gees' legacy appears problematic (as problematic in their appropriation of The Beatles hits in the late 1970s movie "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band").

Queen may not have as many hits as the Bee Gees, but their sound is at once mind-blowing and as defiant as The Beatles, if not more so. And, like The Beatles, their songs lend well to reinterpretation and narrativization.

Therefore, the musical "We Will Rock You" is one whole concept album in operatic arc across two hours and 20 hit Queen songs.

The story happens in the future but the plot is not so futuristic. In fact, it's a bit jaded and hackneyed: it's about oppression and totalitarianism, and defiance and liberation—and that's trying to put it in new and revolutionary terms. It's really "Matrix" onstage and with loud music.

## Rock music banned!

The year is 2358, and live music is banned on earth by the Globalsoft Corporation, which feeds the kids with a diet of synthesized pop and controls their lives like control-freak parents.

Ayesa plays Galileo Figaro. We don't know if that's his real name. We know, of course, the name comes from "Bohemian Rhapsody," Queen's pastiche tribute to opera, and the play is much like that—a pastiche of references, allusions, even parodies and mockeries.

Written by Ben Elton (who shares authorship with Queen), a comic writer and actor, the play is predictably premised but outlandish, its outlandishness charged to the comic spirit and its rejection of anything serious.

Galileo is a dreamer, a poet, and a rock star who does not know he's one, because all memories of the rock-and-roll era have been neatly successfully obliterated by Killer Queen (New Zealand's Annie Crummer), head of Globalsoft who's bent on wiping out all traces of rock from the face of the earth through her ruthless henchman, Khashoggi (Yandy Clarens, a South African in a cast in which many of the chief roles are played by South Africans).

In his many dreams and daydreams, Galileo carries whiffs and phrases of the old rock-and-roll. With Scaramouche (Sivan Raphaely, also a South African), a spunky girl who cannot fit in the clonal world of the Teen Queens created by Globalsoft, Galileo stumbles upon Oz (Nyo Walker) and Oz (Cody Greene), who are part of the Bohemian crowd driven underground by Killer Queen.

But because radar chips have been placed in their brains by Globalsoft, Galileo and Scaramouche unwittingly lead Khashoggi to the lair of the Bohemians, who are captured, brainwashed and exiled to the Seven Seas of Rhye, where bar man Pop (played with great comic timing by Malcolm Terry, also South African) holds an admirable though shaky and wobbly mission where rock lives and survives.



THE SEMINAL British rock band Queen; the flamboyant Freddie Mercury (back image) was front man, composer and lead vocalist.

Of course, it's up to Galileo to rise to the occasion and become the hero who will usher in rock music's triumphant return. But first he has to find out where Queen buried their instruments, like Arthur drawing out the sword from the stone, finally.

## Amorphous songs

Since the musical would be banking on a revival of the Queen repertoire, one might think it would put a more contemporary narrative context to make rhyme and reason of the rather amorphous songs. But instead of situating the story to the probable present, it places the focus on the future, which is not sci-fi but speculative. It's futuristic but hardly the future.

So who killed rock music in the 24th century? According to the play, it was killed by globalization ("Globalsoft") with its tendency to make an assembly mill of art and music. This is all well and true, except that even rock music has always been an intrinsic part of globalization, however its proverbial defiant pose against business and the establishment.

Rock may now be called a salve for the adversary of the environment and other anti-establishment issues, but could there be anything more establishment than being named by Time magazine as Man of the Year and basking in that recognition?

Could there be anything more establishment than Queen front man Freddie Mercury being summoned to a performance by the British royalty at the Royal Albert Hall and, in one of his last public appearances, looking gaunt due to a mysterious disease which later killed him, playing a flamboyant bridegroom to Jane Seymour's blushing bride in a fashion show that was more show than fashion, since it was common knowledge that Mercury was gay?

Or could there be anything more establishment than Brian May opening Queen Elizabeth's jubilee concert in 2002 with a guitar riff of "God Save the Queen" atop Buckingham Palace? Or Roger Taylor in the same show leading the performance of "Bohemian Rhapsody" in a medley together with young stage performers that worked a pedigreeness and rehearsal of "We Will Rock You"?

Hip-hop may have antidote and displaced rock music in the battle for outrageous lyrics and anti-establishment music, but, in the end, both are in the same boat, where genuine artists and visionaries sit side by side with interlopers and pretenders.

Queen aficionados and other lovers of great rock music know the future of rock. If "We Will Rock You" is to be believed, the future is not ridiculous but solid as a rock. It is resistance and globalization defeating originality and creativity.

For artists and audiences, the future will always be something like finding oneself between a rock and a hard place.

"We Will Rock You" runs at the Esplanade Theater until April 27. Visit www.benelton productions.com. Booking website is www.sistic.com.sg.

# First Quarter report card: Performing arts

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

ExpECT JOKES and puns, along with a superb rendition of the classics, in a concert of the Clarion Chamber Ensemble.

For example, one evening at the Francisco Santiago Theater (BDO Tower, Makati City), the all-male performers filed in black (and led by a black, Bravo David Johnson) strutted on stage wearing dark glasses and looking like Mafiosi. (Shades of "Men in Black," pun not intended.)

The concert was devoted mainly to the music of J.S. Bach ("If it's Baroque don't fix it"), and a piano-like instrument, the harpsichord (played by Gerben Dieyer), elicited much interest from the audience, including children.

During the interval, some clambered on stage to gape at, and even play, the harpsichord. A heartwarming sight. Inward progress from Bert Robledo. Only at a Clarion Chamber concert.



BERT Robledo with Clarion Chamber Ensemble

## Magnificent acting

As an elderly professor dying of a degenerative disease in Mitch Albom's celebrated "Tuesdays with Morrie" (Repertory Philippines, directed by Baby Barredo, Onstage, Greenbelt 1), actor Joel Mari Arellano was magnificent. And the only other character in the play, Bart Guingona, served as his perfect foil.

Also a gripping, innovative "Hamlet" (directed by Anton Juan) ... "Tuesdays with Morrie" may well be the most significant play in a provocative 2008 Rep season.

Actor Nicolas Azed acting a ... version from Shakespeare ... Filipino by Nestor ... Nadonza... Dulaang UP ... was ... who was the big hit of the evening in "Love's Labour's" (a Philippine Philharmonic Concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines).

Her beautiful piece, Vaughn Williams' "The Lark Ascending," was partly responsible for the solid acclaim. It was a felicitous mélange of music and literature. In a later PPO concert, the same enthusiastic response was given to guitarist Slava "Roudi" Posser.




## Strauss opera

The Strauss operetta "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat) at the CCP was great fun, marked by comic, outrageous overacting and kabalikat as directed by Floy Quintos.

The faculty of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory let their collective hair down, and proved they have comic talent along with superior singing skills.

The UST Symphony Orchestra led by Herminigildo Ranera, a student group, played like professionals, and the lighting by Monino Duque and the sets designed by Mio Cruz were impressive.

There are obvious parallels in the contemporary Philippine situation in Moncepcion Mabesa's "Kudeta" ("The Coup," Tanghalang Pilipino, directed by Floy Quintos), a lighthearted look at the power struggle that ensues following a coup d'etat in a Caribbean country.

The ensemble, led by Mario O'Hara as the deposed President, sustained a high level of energy (and clowning).

Hunky actors Bong Cabrera and Greenwell Cruz had hesitant roles, along with an attention-calling stage presence.

The years performing in Seattle have served operatic tenor Gary del Rosario well.

He has grown more poised and confident, and his voice more powerful.

His high notes shook the rafters of the Philamlife Theater, generating ovations from the capacity crowd during his homecoming concert. Collaborating artist was pianist Raul Sunico, no less.

## Wacky comedy

Composer-playwright Vincent A. de Jesus' "Mid-sing" (Philippine Educational Theater Association, directed by Soxie Topacio) started as a wacky comedy with clever lines, and then segued into improbable melodrama as the characters fell into singing scenes, following aesthetic surgery, confronted their inner selves.

Gail Guanlao-Billones, as Amor de Sangre, enjoyed great rapport with the audience with her sense of timing, comic flair and fractured accents.

"Philippine Opera Highlights" (at the CCP) showcased compositions by National Artist Felipe Padilla de Leon, Fr. Manuel Maramba, Francisco Feliciano and Ryan Cayabyab. It proved to be a triumph for soprano Kirby Mulles as the vengeful La Loba Negra, soprano Joy Abalon-Tamayo as the threatened Sisa and, to an extent, for tenor Randy Gilongo as the tormented Juan Luna.

The UST Liturgicum Vocal Ensemble and the PPO under conductor Josemari Vilar Tuico added to the evening's success.

The familiar blended with the unfamiliar in the Metro Manila Community Orchestra's "Beyond Borders" (at the CCP). Brahms' Violin Concerto in D Major was performed by Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata, who also played eight new compositions by very young composers: Reginald Tan, Jan Nebsol Cadaguan, Kabastan Bautista, Felix Asis Macalito, Jon Mateo Cruz, Manuel Miguel Concepcion, Joshua Kim Felix and Lester Vinzon.

Their music is marked by an avant-garde, experimental feel that sometimes uses the limits of an instrument, but without totally disregarding classical features.

"They should be encouraged," enthused Ringo Paz Legaspi, executive director of the MMCO, which is led by composer-conductor Chino Toledo.

## Moving tribute

Tanghalang Pilipino's rock musical "EJ" (by Ed Maranan, with music by The Dawn and direction by Chris Millado) was a tumultuous, imaginative and moving tribute to martyred heroes Evelio Javier, the charismatic governor of Antique, and Edgar Jopson, the moderate student activist turned revolutionary.

Garnering the most applause, deservedly, was 17-year-old Roi Calilong, essaying a multiplicity of roles in his toughest assignment yet for TP.

To those who lived through those years, the play was very affecting. Fr. Edgar Allan Ranque, a friend of Evelio who was with him when he was gunned down on Feb. 11, 1986, wept during the performance. At the end, the video cited other Ateneo de Manila martyrs, including the poet Emmanuel Lacaba.

Ballet Philippines went to town with "Little Mermaid" (at the CCP). Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, billed as choreographer Augustus Damian III's "swan song," it combined the sensuous rhythms of the salsa, rumba, bossa nova and what have you with the beauties, alluring lines and leaps of classical ballet.

The first half of the show was more rousing than the second portion. And the six soloists in the pas de deux numbers 4, 5 and 6—Mara Ramirez and Biag Gaongen, Carlo Atienza and Rosslyn Yuchu, and Candice Adea and Rowley Cantara—deserved kudos.

# Trumpets Playshop's summer worshops



TRUMPETS Playshoppers

TRUMPETS PLAYSHOP CELEBRATES its 25th year this summer, secure in its position as a trusted name when it comes to honing young talents.

Its summer workshops are available at The Podium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Alabang Town Center, Glorietta, My Study Partner on Katipunan and Fully Booked at The Fort, April 1-June 1.

Playshop, in fact, has earned the loyalty of its "regulars," fast-rising performers Sam Concepcion, Chesca Ortega, Micah Pineda and Nikki Villa.

Sam Concepcion, now 15, started attending Playshop classes when he was just 8. He is now a STAGES/Star Magic talent, has appeared in numerous commercials and shows, and made it to his first solo album under Universal Records.

"Playshop has taught me and is still teaching me how to have longevity as a performer whether on stage or on television," he says.

Chesca Ortega, STAGES/Viva's new artist, started going to Playshop when she was in grade school. She did not even like theater back then.

At 15, she has played Gabriella on the stage production of Disney's "High School Musical," has starred in several stage plays and music videos, and will come up with her own album very soon.

Micah Pineda, an accomplished thespian at a young age, says, "I'm in UP taking up Theater Arts because Playshop made me realize what I want to become—a theater artist."

Nikki Villa, a pioneer of Playshop Alabang, has graced many plays and musicals.

Trumpets Playshop will open more branches this year. Call 4342842 or visit www.trumpetsplayshop.com.

# *Top Israeli performers in Manila*

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH Independence Day of the State of Israel, the Embassy of Israel presents "Trio," an exclusive dance production by three distinguished artists from Israel.

The by-invitation-only event is on April 2, 6:30 p.m., at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

Top dancer and world-famous choreographer Ido Tadmor performs with two other prominent Israeli artists, Michal Amdurski and Ohad Fishman.

On April 3, 10:30 a.m., a workshop will also be held at FEU Auditorium, Far Eastern University, Sampaloc, Manila.

Call 7384897 or 8958141 loc 41, e-mail info@manila.mfa.gov.il.

# Stunning . . .

From page C4

Golden Age of kundiman.

There is a well-written introduction to the kundiman by Golding on the CD jacket. This should remind the present generation of music-lovers that the Philippines has its own share of Mozarts and Beethovens in the 1930s.

By far, the CD is one of the best recordings of Filipino songs ever to come out and definitely one of the best interpretations you can find in the dry landscape of recorded Filipino music.

Thus far, Zarate is the only Filipino bass baritone with an active singing career in Europe (the last was bass baritone José Mossesgeld Santiago-Font, who looks like Zarate in his younger photos), and this recording will give you an idea that singing is not just about high notes and media hype. It is finding the alchemy of words and music and giving it incandescent form through the human voice.

I hope a music patron or, better still, the existing cultural institutions will find a way to record two other distinguished baritones: Andrew Fernando and Noel Azcona.

To date, we are not so lucky to have preserved the voice of Gonzalo Vargas, Nolasco Sun and Emmanuel Gregorio on solo recitals.

These baritones are testimonies to the fact that bel canto (beautiful singing) in the baritone category did not end with Mossesgeld Santiago.

Call 0920-3104270 for orders.

**Book of art and poetry**

The unique interaction between art and poetry, the "sister arts," as the Greeks of antiquity called them, has resulted in a book of intensely seductive and acrylic paintings with rich lyrics by a National Artist.

Titled "Romansa, Selected Poems in the Traditional Filipino Short Forms," the book will be launched on April 2, during the Printemps des Poètes (Springtime of Poets) celebrations at Alliance Française de Manille on Nicanor Garcia Street (formerly Reposo) in Makati.

"Romansa" brings together Manuel Baldemor and National Artist for Literature Rio Alma.

The latter's contemporary tanaga, dalit and dalit, with their strict syllabic forms and familiar emotions, are interpreted by Baldemor's impressionistic "inscapes" of places and memories culled from his various travels here and abroad.

Edited with translations for the non-Filipino reader by award-winning poet Marne L. Kilates, and with an introduction by art critic Rubén Defeo, "Romansa" is handsomely designed by Eve Pelayo and published by Rene Moral's "Editorial" Books.

# Stunning European CD by Filipino bass baritone

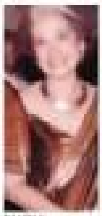
A German-produced album of Filipino 'kundiman' by Berlin-based Jonathan Zaens brings back the romance of the Philippine art song



# LIFESTYLE



# Historian, conservationist is new Intramuros administrator



# Kit Zobel displays passion for photography

By Claudia V. Mina

KIT ZOBEL'S ARDENT pursuit of photography has made her a kindred spirit of her father-in-law, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, chair emeritus of Ayala Corp. and an accomplished photographer.

"He's happy that finally there's somebody in the family he can talk camera with," Zobel said when she met with members of the press to discuss her participation in "Shared Moods," a group photo exhibit (until April 8 at Greenbelt 3, Makati; it will move to Greenbelt 5 and run until April 15).

The exhibit is part of the Ayala Group's "Bravo Filipino" events, a series of arts and culture activities celebrating Filipino artistry.

"In fact, the series that I chose for the exhibit was from an afternoon we spent together shooting," Zobel said of her seven-piece collection. Untitled "Dance in Motion," the photos were taken at her sister-in-law Sofia Elizalde's dance studio Steps in Makati. "He's very supportive. Every time we get together now we constantly talk about photography. It's nice to have that kind of banter."

"Shared Moods" is Zobel's first major show, where she joins eight other photographers—Emil Davocol, Frankie Callaghan, Pancho Escaler, Quincy Castillo, Ernie Fajardo, Gabby Lorenzo, Johann Espiritu and Pendy Concepcion—four of whom are established professionals. Earlier this year, her works were included alongside her father-in-law's and other photographers' in a calendar produced to raise funds for Steps' dance scholars.

Her interest in photography started at a young age, Zobel said, but it wasn't until 2006 that she took formal lessons—only because she wanted to take better photos of her family. Until that time, the SLR camera she had been using was on permanent automatic mode. She has since upgraded her Canon 20D to a 5D.

"I still have a lot to learn," she said. "We'll see where it takes me. Right now I'm just enjoying it... Since I'm new, my eyes are open to new things, but my images have potential."

Though she enjoys the "instant gratification" derived from using digital cameras, Zobel said she has rediscovered the "magical quality" in using film, "in terms of texture, the graininess."

"[Photography] is a democratic art," she said when asked if the easy access to digital cameras had made the medium even harder to elevate for many as an art form alongside other visual media like painting.

"Everyone can find expression in it. Not everyone can paint a picture but everyone can take a good photograph... It's also subjective. It depends on what a person sees. As long as there's an audience to appreciate, I guess photography can be considered art."



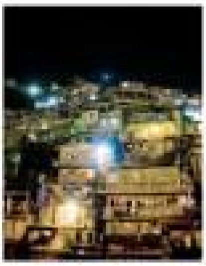
PHOTO by Kit Zobel



KIT Zobel







FROM TOP, photos by Kit Zobel, Emil Davocol and Frankie Callaghan

# Art of chaos

By Constantino C. Tejero

Melvin Culaba's art typifies the Filipino's sense of aesthetics, the horror vacui

ONE PROOF OF AN ARTIST'S SKILL is the ability to harness chaos. For a painter, it is usually achieved by the control of line and the orchestration of color.

This seems to be the task Melvin Culaba has taken upon himself, and we can see that therein lies his strength as artist. With his massed figures and well-orchestrated colors, he can create ordered compositions from disorderly imagery.

The refinement of his art he recently demonstrated in "Human Resources," paintings in oil on canvas, in Kaida Gallery, 2/F, GFD Bldg., 122 Kamuning Rd., Quezon City.

Culaba's sense of composition typifies the Filipino's sense of aesthetics, what philosophers and art theorists call horror vacui. This particular sensibility demands that every available space be filled up with detailing.

We can trace the influences of as far afield as Salvador Dalí, Dalí, Olmedo, Michelangelo and Van Gogh in Culaba's expressionism. In use of color and manipulation of line, but his art is an entire unique.

The exhibition note succinctly explains: "The people populating his canvases are the building blocks of social and economic production. The artist portrays these sources of labor not as an organized force but as movable and dynamic elements swimming in the tide of the informal economy. There is a presence which can neither be overlooked nor dismissed. This is a disconcerting portrait of contemporary life."

That, then, is what's most of the uniqueness of Culaba's art lies. It appears he is alone among his contemporaries to give so much focus on this sector of Philippine society, and so much importance to these people's daily activities.

Those that are known of him as someone who explored the underground economy as subject for art, or so expansively unfurled the milieu of those people.

The first-time viewer is likely to be appalled by these monstrous figures and what at first glance appear to be repelling activities, until a closer scrutiny reveals how banal they really are, such as the emaciated dog sniffing a pair of slippers in "Walang Tao"; or the squalid vendors selling cellphone accessories in "Cel Roaming Unit," plastic toys in "Laruan," ukay-ukay clothing in "Peloud."

Culaba's signature imagery is of a chaotic world teeming with warm humanity. He creates a sense of turmoil through broad brushstrokes without forgetting the tiny details, and a rich color tonality that alternates between warm and cool, bold and muted, often may seem to be muted.

This is vigorous composition that's seldom rendered with such skill, and art that's not often seen on the canvases of Culaba's contemporaries.

A graduate of Fine Arts, major in Painting, from University of Santo Tomas, Culaba received the Vermont Studio Center grant three years ago. He was a finalist in the Philip Morris Art Awards and had been cited at the Metrobank Young Painters Annual Competition and the Art Association of the Philippines Painting Competition.

Although he has held relatively few solo exhibits, he has done one-man shows in the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Red Mill Gallery in Vermont, USA. His energetic style and dynamic composition belie the quiet personality, apparently less aggressive than his contemporaries in pushing his art, but almost always looking deep in thought.



"LIFE of Andrew C."



"SALITA ng D"



"TELA Pantasi-a"

## VISUAL ARTS



"OLD Pandan Mall"

### Dial at West Gallery

ANGELA DIAL PRESENTS HER solo exhibit "Withering," until April 30 in West Gallery, 48 West Ave., QC (tel. 4110336). The exhibit gathers together assemblages of mailboxes from all over the world—Philippines, United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, Bhutan, Germany, England, Spain—some of the places in a global phenomenon where the mailbox is increasingly becoming defunct entity in the face of faster and more accessible communication systems. Dial brings together these images of mailboxes and paints them in a sort of observation, preservation and collection.



"DANCING with You"

### Vergel at Ricco Renzo Galleries

Anna Christina Vergel from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts holds her second one-woman show "Beyond Borders," until April 20 in Ricco Renzo Galleries & Café, LRI Design Plaza, 210 N. Garcia, Bel-Air 2, Makati.

Vergel's works are linear and abstract. Her choice of colors or preference does not follow a single pattern or is limited to a few selections. The colors, shapes and forms take an array of combinations. Her strokes are linear and circular and free-flowing while her colors are light, pastels, blue hues, brown and white, which to a large extent reflect her true personality and perspective in art.

Her works in mixed media combine the exuberant qualities of resin, oil and other construction materials. Log on www.riccorenzo.com.

### Arellano at Crucible

"The Goddess Revisited," by Agnes Arellano—a sculptor's celebration of life and womanhood—was produced in 2007 after a decade-long hiatus.

The exhibit is composed of maquette-size bronzes, 18-22 cm in length, originally inspired by a palm-size archeological statuette called The Sleeping Lady of Malta which has wide hips and a small head and hands/feet.



"ANCESTRAL Regeneration Goddess"

These fertility Venuses and Mother Goddess figures were the product of field research on the Mediterranean isle of Malta, where the artist visited the remains of temples for healing and dream incubation that have been standing since Neolithic times. This body of works is part of her continuing search for the Sacred Feminine. The exhibit runs April 8-30 in Crucible Gallery, 4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 6336951.

### PAP at the Crucible

Selected original fine prints from the collection of the Philippine Association of Printmakers (PAP) are on view until April 8 in Crucible Gallery, 4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 6336951.

### Gaudinez at Galerie Astra

"Mindscapes of Mu," a show featuring the "Lemurian landscapes of the mind" by William Antonio Gaudinez, runs until April 9 in Galerie Astra (2/F, 210 N. Garcia, Bel-Air 2, Makati). Gaudinez based this art exhibition on the myth of Lemuria which was believed to have sunk in the Pacific thousands of thousands of years ago, including Mu. Call 8902666 for details.



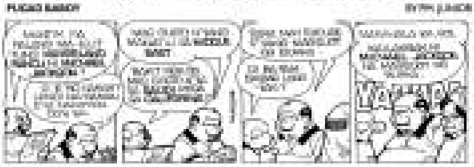
"VORTEX"




A. LIPIN — By Jess Abrera



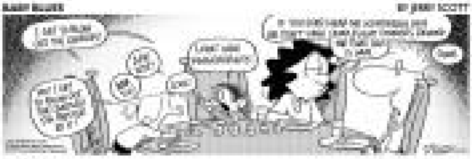

PUGAD BABOY — By Pol Medina Jr.



GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



ATOMO AND WENDY — [illegible]



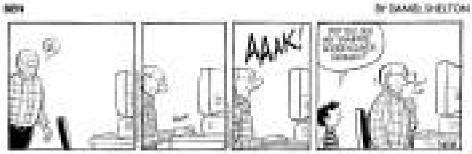
LOVESHOTS — [illegible]



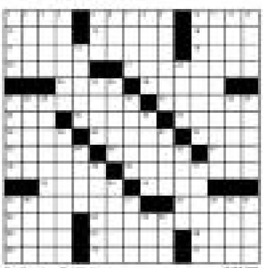
[illegible] — By Manix Abrera

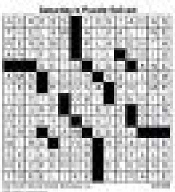


BEN — By Daniel Shelton




## DAILY CROSSWORD





## HOROSCOPE

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

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| 6 | 9 | | | | | 5 | | 8 |
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| 5 | | 8 | | | | | 9 | 2 |
| | 7 | | 3 | | | | 8 | |

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

# New books show colorful Cebu lifestyle



**PRIDE OF PLACE**

*Augusto F. Villalon*





#### Beauty and bounty

#### By the sea

#### Heritage watch



# LEARNING



# In a hurry, but no less prepared

## INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

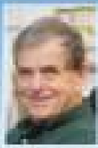
# What is in a newspaper?

## A lesson plan on reading and finding information

on CAMPUS

Playgrounds for the MIND

# Ateneo hosts talk of Nobel Laureate for Chemistry



CIECHANOVER

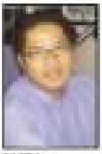
## CEU students 1st runner-up in Business Plan Competition



# Olfu Antipolo campus gears up for SY 2008-2009

# UP Centennial Literary Contest deadline extended

## Adamsonian 2nd placer in Architect Licensure Exam



PINEDA

# IAME-Austrian University offer on-the-job training in 5-star hotels in Europe

## DepEd announces top performing schools

## Paref Woodrose joins the e-learning bandwagon

# PNU-DepEd summer teacher's training program set





UE'S KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR



## CLASS ACT

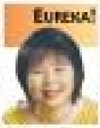
## PISAY



# What math teachers want parents to know

Some children are having difficulty in algebra because arithmetic has not been mastered

EUREKA!



Queena N. Lee-Chua

MATH TEACHERS ARE OF-ten the target of parental ire in parent-teacher conferences.

### Focus on helping students

### Beware

### Play's essential





# Ruffa, Pinoy 'dreamer' read to kids

Enjoyable

## SAS storybooks for Pasig schoolchildren




## Bright Minds kits for Metro public schools





# Reading made more thrilling

The Megumi Reader is a low cost, highly interactive gadget designed to promote literacy in public schools



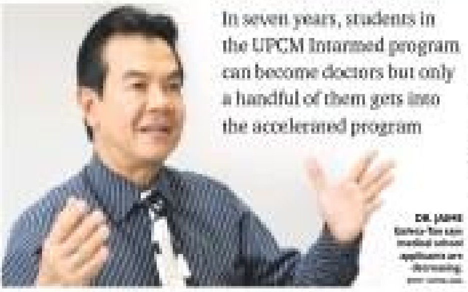
THE PORTABLE, easy-to-use Megumi Reader is designed to help children with reading problems.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

In seven years, students in the UPCM Intarmed program can become doctors but only a handful of them gets into the accelerated program



# Fast and furious

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## Social conscience

## Disadvantages

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# Step up

The ladderized training of doctors at UP in Palo, Leyte, serves a model for other medical courses



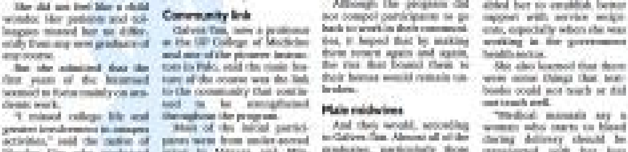
## Community link

## High passing rates

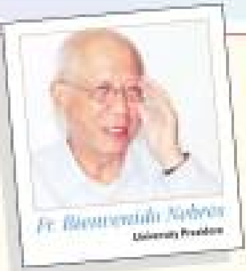
## Male midwives

## Social skills

# The boys on the fast lane



## Barrio service



University President

# What I've learned

## ROLL CALL

### National math quiz finals

### Bulacan school homecoming

### Summer training in robotics

### Letran Calamba hosts leadership camp

# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde







"I KNOW I can't stay in show biz forever, so I'm exploring other options."

## Charlene back in school to learn farming

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

QUIETLY, TV HOST AND beauty queen Charlene Gonzales went back to school, enrolling in the [illegible] program of the Asian Institute of Management in Makati.

"In any field, one gets to a point of transition," she told Inquirer Entertainment. "I cannot stay in show biz forever, so I'm exploring other prospects."

Gonzales was back on campus last [illegible] according to her main mentor, Prof. [illegible]

CHARLENE F4









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2 HORTON

3 OVER HER DEAD BODY

4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

5 FOOL'S GOLD

6 SOLSTICE

7 STEP UP 2

8 indieSine: ABADEHA

9 MEET the SPARTANS

10 MY BIG LOVE



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## ERMITA

1 OVER HER DEAD BODY

2 FOOL'S GOLD

3 HORTON

4 SOLSTICE

5 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

6 STEP UP 2

7 MEET the SPARTANS

8 indieSine: DAYBREAK

9 10,000 BC

## METRO EAST

1 10,000 BC

2 HORTON

3 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

4 OVER HER DEAD BODY

5 STEP UP 2

6 MEET the SPARTANS

7 FOOL'S GOLD

8 SOLSTICE

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2 HORTON / ASSASSINATION JESSE JAMES

3 IN THE NAME of the KING

4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

## LIPA

1 BLONDE AMBITION

2 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

3 THE BEST

4 MY BROTHER'S WIFE

## DASMARIÑAS

1 MY BROTHER'S WIFE

2 FOOL'S GOLD

3 ASSASSINATION of JESSE JAMES

4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

## IMUS

1 PRIVATE MOMENTS

2 FOOL'S GOLD

3 HORTON/10,000 BC

4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

## ANGELES

1 BLONDE AMBITION

2 MY BROTHER'S WIFE

3 HORTON

4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

## TARLAC

1 THE BUCKET LIST

2 10,000 BC

3 P2

## STARMILLS

1 HORTON

2 BLONDE AMBITION

3 DAN in REAL LIFE

4 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

5 10,000 BC

6 UNTRACEABLE

## BACOLOD

1 THE BUCKET LIST

2 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

3 UNTRACEABLE

4 10,000 BC

5 HORTON

6 HALF-BLOOD SAMURAI

## ILOILO

1 10,000 B.C.

2 SUPAHPAPALICIOUS

3 PRIVATE MOMENTS

4 HORTON

5 HALF BLOOD SAMURAI

6 KITE RUNNER

## Which Hwood star is CamSur-bound?

THERE'S TALK THAT Camarines... [illegible]

**DID YOU KNOW...**



## AT THE CINEMAS

| Cinema | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GLORIETTA 1 | 1 STEP UP 2 | 2 FOOL'S GOLD | 3 HORTON HEARS A WHO | 4 SUPER PAPALICIOUS |
| GLORIETTA 4 | 1 SUPER PAPALICIOUS | 2 OVER HER DEAD BODY | 3 FOOL'S GOLD | |
| | 4 WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY | 5 10,000 B.C. | 6 HORTON HEARS A WHO | 7 STEP UP 2 |
| GREENBELT 1 | 1 FOOL'S GOLD | 2 HORTON HEARS A WHO | | |
| GREENBELT 3 | 1 FOOL'S GOLD | 2 HORTON HEARS A WHO | | |
| | 3 MEET THE SPARTANS | 4 WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY | 5 OVER HER DEAD BODY | |
| ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 HORTON HEARS A WHO | 2 FOOL'S GOLD | | |
| | 3 SUPER PAPALICIOUS | 4 STEP UP 2 | 5 OVER HER DEAD BODY | |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 HORTON HEARS A WHO | 2 SUPER PAPALICIOUS | 3 DAN IN REAL LIFE | 4 SLEUTH |
| MARKET! MARKET! | 1 SUPER PAPALICIOUS | 2 OVER HER DEAD BODY | | |
| | 3 FOOL'S GOLD | 4 10,000 B.C. | 5 HORTON HEARS A WHO | |
| TRINOMA | 1 SUPER PAPALICIOUS | 2 MEET THE SPARTANS | 3 OVER HER DEAD BODY | 4 FOOL'S GOLD |
| | 5 10,000 B.C. | 6 STEP UP 2 | 7 HORTON HEARS A WHO | |

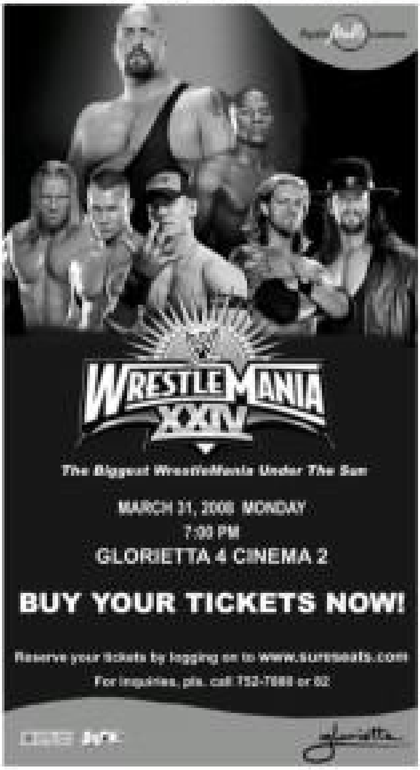
## AT THE MALLS

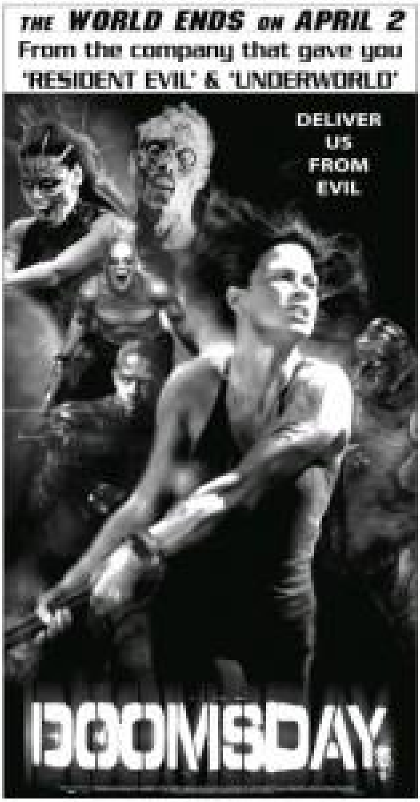
| Mall | Event |
|---|---|
| Glorietta | Lagoon Expo, March 20-30, Glorietta Activity Center |
| Greenbelt | [illegible] |
| Alabang Town Center | [illegible] |
| Ayala Center Cebu | [illegible] |
| Market! Market! | [illegible] |
| TriNoma | [illegible] |

## Show Time

### Big acts at the Big Dome

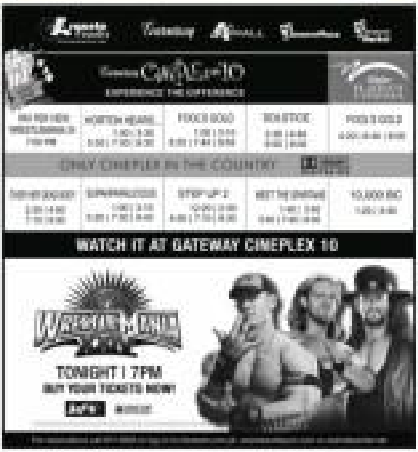














## Charlene

From page F1

### Focused

### Phase 2

### Ranching

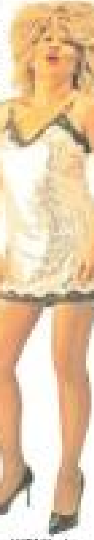
### For the kids

# Turner impersonator mistaken for the real thing

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

Ruben V. Nepales





LUISA Marshall, Filipino entertainer

> 'My not being black is not a problem for my audience. In fact, they have no idea what I am'

## ROUNDUP

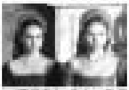
### Battle of the bands

### Wrestling match



"WRESTLEMANIA XXIV"

### Movie preview



"THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL"

### Comedy Month contest

### Film tilt finalists



"AMBULANCIA"

# Ylmaz seen dating former Miss Universe

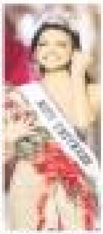

YLMAZ BEKTAS—yes, that Ylmaz—with Miss U '96 Zuleyka Mendoza, from Puerto Rico.

A TURKISH NATIONAL NAMED KENAN sent me this e-mail (and pics at right): "Turkish paparazzi spotted Ylmaz Bektas with Miss Universe '96 Zuleyka Mendoza. From Puerto Rico, he [arranged] a private flight for her to come to Turkey.

"Looks like Ylmaz really has a penchant for beauty queens. It remains to be seen if things will turn ugly for him and his new beauty just like in the recent past. Beauty queens? Heaven forbid!

"After she arrived at the Ataturk Airport in the private plane, they chose to check in at the Hotel Les Ottomans Ring Suit, which is famous [among] the jet society. Since the hotel doesn't have a heliport, they went to the Ciragan Palace first via helicopter. Then they boarded a black Mercedes car with two guards in tow.

"After resting in the hotel for a few hours, they went to the famous Terra Restaurant. They didn't want to be caught by the paparazzi so they came to the restaurant separately."


THESE photos came via e-mail from reader "Kenan."


DOLLY WOOD
*Dolly Anne Carvajal*

### Three's a crowd?

The shooting of a TV ad was postponed because endorsers A and B refused to be in the same scene as endorser C. The ad agency felt that would be too expensive to create separate story boards. So they considered replacing endorser C but she already got a down payment.

Endorser C is clueless about how the two other endorsers feel. If she did, she would definitely give them a mouthful—as she usually does. There's a crowd! Will the endorsers be a crowd-drawer during the product launch, given such animosity?

### IT girl

The search for the ultimate IT girl starts April 7, as 18 fab young ladies try to outshine each other in QTV's newest reality show "The Debutante." Hosted by Marc Nelson, it seeks to show that life isn't just a party; it's about living your best, especially when no one is looking.

Aspiring to be the ultimate debutante are Sehenine Aubry, Danielle Lee, Sophia Abdullah Ahmed, Samantha Gendron, Bianca Soper, Joy Yabiera, Bea Cendaña, Mitzi Cand, Bree Sanchez, EC Hoffman, Bebe Hofman, Ishtar Hart Gandjo, Mikki Nuke, Michelle Palomo, Aby Adao, Chalmeida Cecilio, Denise Chu, and Rachel Tan.

In the pilot episode, the viewers will get to know the girls as they walk their way down the red carpet in a New York Fashion Week-inspired setting at the Alchemy Club.

Bet your hearts out as you watch the new IT girls do their thing!

### Educational show

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind adventure in search for the unknown together with Kim Atienza in the educational show, "Matanglawin," Mondays after "Bandila" on ABS-CBN. Meet interesting people as Kuya Kim talks to community-based resource persons with different expertise on various fields.

Living up to the show's title, Kim explores the unknown with the vantage point of a Philippine hawk—bold and vigilant!

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